

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1920.

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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

POPULATION.

Census (1911)	4,887
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Estimated (1920)	5,274
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Area : 873 acres (land).

Average number of persons per acre : 6.

Deaths registered in the District	...	50
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Corrections : Additions	...	8
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Deductions	...	12
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Latitude : 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N.

Longitude : 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

RAINFALL.

	1919.	1920.
January ...	3'44 inches.	2'78 inches.
February ..	2'91 „	'54 „
March ...	2'79 „	1'42 „
April ...	3'10 „	3'81 „
May ...	'28 „	'72 „
June ...	1'48 „	1'49 „
July ...	2'16 „	4'31 „
August ...	3'53 „	1'79 „
September ...	1'06 „	3'22 „
October ...	'57 „	1'21 „
November ...	1'65 „	'84 „
December ...	3'49 „	2'57 „
	-----	-----
Total ...	26'46 „	24'70 „

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated on the ridge of land between the valleys of the Rivers Roding and Ching, the greater portion facing the valley of the Roding.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with here and there pockets of gravel of varying size.

The area of the District is about 873 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet above sea level.

The District is mainly a residential one.

There are no large factories or works in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1920 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1915	4770	104	110	23	59	12.3	5	7	4	36.3	61	12.7
1916	4770 Birth R. 4822 Death R.	108	110	21.9	51	10.7	6	16	14	127.2	61	13.2
1917	4326 Birth R. 4988 Death R.	74	—	—	44	10.2	5	9	9	121.6	48	11.1
1918	4452 Birth R. 5284 Death R.	95	73	14.6	67	15	6	8	7	96	71	15.9
1919	5072	113	87	16.4	67	13.2	17	14	5	57.4	64	12.6
1920	5274	130	117	22.1	50	9.4	12	8	3	25.6	46	8.7

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	22	—	9	10	1	2	—	—	18
Scarlet Fever	29	—	6	18	3	2	—	—	21
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	—
Influenza and Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	8	—	—	—	3	2	3	—	—
Ditto other forms	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	71	2	15	30	9	10	5	—	39

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40.

Number of Diseases that can be treated concurrently, 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Influenza	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1
Other Form ditto	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cancer	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	1
Heart Disease	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Nephritis	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Rheumatic Fever	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Appendicitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	13	2	1	—	—	1	—	5	4	—
Violence	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Total all Causes	46	3	2	2	—	4	10	15	10	9

Death Rate ... 8.7 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

There were three deaths under one year, the cause and age being :—

Atelectasis	14 hours.
Congenital Heart	2 Days.
Marasmus	2 Months.

Infantile Mortality Rate ... 25.6 per 1000.

					Boys.	Girls.			
Births during the year ...	...	{	Legitimate	...	68	40	}	117
			Illegitimate	...	7	2			
					Boys.	Girls.			
Deaths during the year...	...	{	Legitimate infants	...	1	2	}		3
			Illegitimate infants	...	—	—			

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is hard, being obtained from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill, but the supply is constant and adequate and no complaints have been received.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One complaint was received from the County Council during the year as to pollution of the River Roding.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All drainage and sewerage is dealt with by the Council, and all houses are connected, and provided with satisfactory closet accommodation and flushing apparatus.

The Council's Sewage Works are situated on the Eastern border of the District, on the banks of the River Roding, where all sewerage from the Eastern slope is dealt with. The sewerage from the Western slope being treated at the Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consist of two settling tanks, primary and secondary, sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resultant effluent.

There have been no complaints of smells.

The filter beds have been overhauled and cleaned. A new rotating sprinkler is being installed.

IV. SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse is done by contract, and is collected once a week. This arrangement works satisfactorily. The majority of the houses have satisfactory dustbins, and every endeavour is made to keep these in good condition.

During the year 2413 yards, at a total cost of £489 5s. 3d., has been collected.

The refuse is dumped on waste ground on the Eastern side of the District, where the refuse from Woodford is also being shot. The refuse is used in the making of bricks, and the heap has, to some extent, been reduced, but is still an ideal home for rats and flies.

One complaint has been received regarding the refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

Complaints received	11
Nuisances detected without complaint	94
Nuisances abated	88
Notices served (informal)	95
„ „ H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17	nil.
„ „ „ Sec. 15	12
Closing Orders made	nil.
Summons taken out	nil.
Convictions	nil.
Houses inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17	40
„ „ „ „ „ Sec. 15	1
Slaughterhouses (two in district) visits	23
Bakehouses (five in district) „	57
Dairies and Milkshops (three in district) „	63
Cowkeeper „	14
Workshops and Workplaces (Twenty-seven in District) „	33
Factories (five) excluding bakery visits „	8
Houses disinfected	47
Overcrowding abated... ..	1
Houses placed in habitable repair	1
Houses closed... ..	nil.
Cisterns cleansed, covered, or repaired	8
Drains entirely re-laid	2
Drains amended	19
Dustbins supplied	4
Drains tested	48
Animals improperly kept	2
Seizures of unsound fish, meat, etc.	48 Rabbits and 8¼lbs. Bacon
Verminous houses disinfected	2

The two places for entertainment were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

The urinals of all licensed premises have been lighted.

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, houses, workshops, factories, bakehouses, dairies, slaughterhouses, etc., 1249.

The total amount of house refuse collected was 2,412'75 yards.

(Signed) H. G. RICHARDS, A.R.S.I.

Inspector of Nuisances.

Statutory Notices served	...	21.	Complied with	...	6
Outstanding Notices at the close of 1919	...		6	(Informal.)	
"	"	" 1920	...	21	(")
"	"	(Statutory)	...	15	

Most of the work in connection with the Informal Notices is well in hand, and 13 of the Statutory Notices refer to a row of cottages ; the work on these is being carried out.

Factories and Workshops.

These have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

<i>Factories.</i>	<i>Workshop.</i>	<i>Domestic Workplaces.</i>
1 Printer.	3 Builders.	4 Cobblers.
1 Baker.	1 Blacksmith.	1 Tailor.
1 Blacksmith.	1 Stonemason.	1 Umbrella Repairer.
1 Brickfield.	1 Harness & Cycle Maker.	1 Corset maker.
1 Laundry.	1 Upholsterer.	1 Laundry.
	5 Dressmakers.	
	1 Shoemaker.	
	3 Garages.	
<i>Bakehouses.</i>	<i>Slaughterhouses.</i>	<i>Dairies and Cowkeepers</i>
5	2	4

The premises of Three Outworkers have been inspected.

One Fried Fish Shop is the only offensive trade in the District.

The Forest Ponds were sprayed with paraffin during the breeding season, to destroy mosquitoes.

The Forest Pond, in the High Road, should be cleaned out at an early date.

SCHOOLS.

The Three Elementary Schools obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board.

At the Infants' School, in Albert Road, the drains have been relaid and modern conveniences fitted. The lavatories at the Girls' and Infants' School, in the High Road, consist of five pedestal water closets and a number of trough closets. The latter were cleaned out and tarred and are to be removed and pedestal closets fitted at an early date. The lavatories at the Boys' School were cleaned out during the year.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The majority of the houses are supplied by three local retailers, who obtain their supply out of the District. The supply is adequate and of fair quality. There is One Cow-keeper having an approximate total of milch cows of 30.

The premises are periodically inspected, and the conditions are generally satisfactory.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER 1919.

Glaxo is supplied free to necessitous mothers and at cost price to "working class" mothers who regularly attend the Clinic.

MEAT.

There are two slaughter-houses in the District which are kept in a very good condition. They are very little used, Foreign and dead English meat being generally sold. There is no public abattoir in the District.

No tuberculous cattle has been detected in the slaughter-houses and no meat seized on account of tubercle.

During the year 48 rabbits have been condemned and destroyed. These rabbits were of Australian origin, purchased in a frozen state, which, on thawing, decomposed rapidly and became unfit for human consumption.

The bacon in many of the shops was inspected and $8\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. was seized as unfit for human food.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES,

	1914.	January, 1920.	December, 1920.
Registered	Nil	Nil	Nil
Licensed	2	2	2
	—	—	—
Total	2	2	2

The five bakehouses are periodically inspected and the general condition satisfactory.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

71 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. 22 cases of Diphtheria, 29 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Erysipelas, 7 of Pneumonia, 1 of Influenza and Pneumonia, 8 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 of other forms of Tuberculosis, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Showing an average per 1,000 inhabitants of 13.4.

The incidence of infectious Disease in the District during 1920 was higher than in previous years, the greatest number being notified during the month of March. Rarely more than two cases occurred in any part of the District at one time and after careful investigation it was not found possible to connect cases in the different areas.

No Diphtheria carrier was discovered, although many contacts were examined and some swabbed.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A combined appointment of Maternity Nurse and Health Visitor was made in 1918 and works well.

The Child Welfare Centre continues to be a great success, largely due to the great interest taken in it by the voluntary workers, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Munday, and Mrs. Norman, and the untiring efforts of Nurse Ockelford. A report by the latter on the work done during the year is appended.

REPORT BY NURSE OCKELFORD.

The Clinic has continued to increase in numbers each week and whereas the names on the register in January numbered 55, in December they were 105.

On one occasion during November we had an attendance of 70 and three consecutive weeks in December the attendances were 60. The average attendance, however, gives a total of 42 per week, giving an increase of sixteen per week from the previous year.

In January we received our first supply of Glaxo and Virol, which proved a great success and it was necessary at the end of June to ask for the 48 lbs. of Glaxo to be delivered every two weeks instead of the four weeks delivery.

The ant-natal visitation is still mainly carried out in the houses, and in general the visits seem to be much appreciated, the mothers preferring this method of receiving advice and instruction, and also gaining confidence in the Nurse, therefore speaking more freely on such occasion.

Expectant mothers 34—visits paid 130.

Health visitation to children up to five years of age—number of visits, 924. These visits include :—

After the 14th day 2 visits during the 1st month.
 1 visit per month up to 4 months.
 1 visit every 2 months from 4 months to 12 months.
 1 visit every 3 months from 1st to 3rd year.
 From the 3rd to 5th year, 1 visit each 6 months.

Visiting children until recovered if called in for illness, and helping when necessary if parents are unable to manage alone in cases of special treatment.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY WORK.

Midwifery cases	...	...	...	34
Doctors' cases nursed	...	...	...	6
				—
Total	...	...	...	40
				—

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health and one part-time Sanitary Inspector.

HOSPITAL.

Waltham Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

LOCAL ACTS.

Apart from the general Acts, the following Acts have been adopted :

Public Health Act (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 3.		
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 2.
		(Except Section 25).
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 3 and 4.
		(Except Section 66).
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 8 and 9.

BY-LAWS.

New Streets and Buildings.

Respecting Nuisances.

Do. Slaughter-houses.

Do. Telegraph, etc., Wires.

Dairy Regulations and

Dairy Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Order of 1885.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Swabs and Sputum were examined for Diphtheria and Tubercle.

OTHER SERVICES.

Endeavours are being made to exterminate the rats, with, apparently, satisfactory results. In the early part of the year many baits were laid down, and the majority of them were taken. Since then there have been practically no complaints regarding rats.

HOUSING.

The number of houses in the District is about 1,090. Of these some 492 are working class houses.

Practically every house in the District is occupied, and houses are urgently needed to meet the existing demands. No new houses have been erected for several years. Two houses during the year were rendered fit for occupation. The Council are building some houses which it is hoped will be ready for occupation early in 1921.

Some cases of overcrowding were found and the conditions under which some families are obliged to exist are most unsatisfactory and need immediate attention to remedy the house shortage. During the year one case of overcrowding was abated.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of working class houses in the District is fair.

The principal defects are: Damp walls and defective ceilings caused by defective gutters and roofs, and defective floors and general lack of repairs.

During the year 41 houses have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, in 34 of these defects were found and remedied. The Owners of a row of cottages that are in a bad condition have, upon Notices being served upon them, commenced the repairs.

Difficulty is experienced in getting the landlords to do the repairs owing to the high cost and scarcity of material, but the Owners are a little more inclined to do repairs than in the previous year.

Mr. Richards, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

A summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector, together with Tables of Statement required by the Ministry of Health, are included in the report.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated Population	...	...	...	5274.
(2) General Death-rate	...	...	...	8·7.
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1·34.
(4) Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	25·6.
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses of all Classes	...	1090	about.	
(6) Number of Working-class Dwelling-houses	...	492.	„	
(7) Number of New Working-class Houses				
Erected	...	...	...	nil.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	125.
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	41.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	97.

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	82.
---	-----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1.
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil.

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 18. |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) by owners | 5. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil. |

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling - houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | nil. |
| (3) Number of dwelling - houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | nil. |
| (4) Number of dwelling - houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | nil. |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | nil. |

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| (1) Name of area | } No
Unhealthy
Area. |
| (2) Acreage | |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in area | |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced | |

IV.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919